

**REMARKS:**

Claims 1-10 remain as originally submitted and a new claim 11 has been added.

The Abstract has been revised as required with the last two lines deleted as redundant.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Roe, U.S. Patent No. 6,272,757, hereafter Roe in view of Bednar et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,851,193, hereafter Bednar.

In Roe the single post 61 is alleged to teach the dual connecting parts 14 of the application. The post 61 has a rounded cross-section, however, the rounded cross-section does not form any connecting parts. The connecting parts of Roe have locking dots 63 in an elongated section of the post which does not have a rounded cross-section. Note column 4 of Roe commencing at line 5. The locking section in Roe has a planar positioning slot 71 so that the post has a “generally D-shape cross-section”, not a round cross-section as claimed by the applicants.

In Roe, as can be seen in Figs. 5-12, a locking plate 82 can be engaged with the locking slots 63 or moved to a channel 77 at the end of the post 61 so that the post can be rotated and displaced axially, note Figs. 12 and 13.

Based on Roe a person skilled in the art would not be directed to the dual connecting parts as claimed by the applicants.

Bednar is relied upon as disclosing guide assembly attached to the housing at two separate locations. It does not suggest or disclose the connecting

housing at two separate locations. It does not suggest or disclose the connecting parts 14 as claimed by the applicants. The combination of Roe and Bednar does not afford any basis for the rejection of applicants' claim 1.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Roe in view of Mejia, U.S. Patent No. 3,528,463. hereafter Mejia. Mejia is relied upon as disclosing a U-shaped connecting web; it does not suggest the connecting parts 14 in applicants' claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this combination of references does not afford a basis for rejecting any of applicants' claims.

Therefore, in view of the lack of a basis for the rejection of applicants' claims it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the subject t application are allowable and a favorable action on the application is solicited.

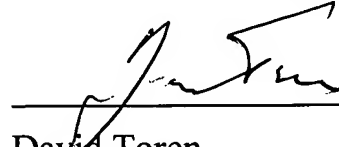
### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the

case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

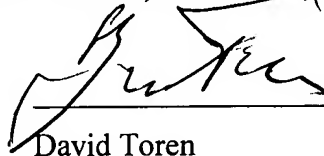


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This correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on May 23, 2006 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number **ER 059 676 697 US** addressed to the Honorable Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



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